

Benin new generation of solar panels

Where is Benin's first solar power plant located?

Benin is inaugurating its first large-scale solar photovoltaic power plant. The installation, located in the locality of Illouloufin, was recently commissioned. The reception ceremony presided over by Benin's Minister of Energy Dona Jean-Claude Houssou took place on Tuesday 19 July 2022.

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Who can benefit from a new off-grid solar scheme in Benin?

Households, smallholders and entrepreneurs in remote locations across Benin will be able to access reliable and cheap electricity for the first time under a new off-grid solar scheme agreed between leading solar energy company ENGIE Energy Access and the European Investment Bank, one of the world's largest financiers of renewable energy.

What type of energy is used in Benin?

The evolution of the electrical mix of Benin indicates that, in 2020, natural gas was the first form of energy used to produce electrical energy, representing a proportion of 71.63%. Solar photovoltaic (PV) accounts for 0.30% of the mix by form of energy compared with 1.36% in 2016, as shown in Fig. 3.

What is Benin's current energy situation?

This section provides information on Benin's current energy situation with energy demand-and-supply scenarios. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), 41% of Benin's population currently have access to electricity.

Does Benin have a green energy potential?

Benin has also joined this dynamic by considerably increasing its green energy production efforts in recent years. The country has a huge undeveloped renewable-energy (RE) potential that can contribute considerably to its national energy production capacity. This paper summarizes the current RE situation in Benin and examines its future prospects.

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Benin has introduced a VAT exemption on the import of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, along with materials, equipment, and installation accessories for PV and solar thermal systems. This fiscal incentive, included in the 2020 finance law, aims to boost access to electricity through off-grid projects by making solar energy more affordable.

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Toyota Tsusho Corporation, a Japanese conglomerate, has sealed a deal with the Beninese Electricity Production Company to erect a 25 MW solar power plant in Benin's Pobè region. This venture represents the first large-scale renewable energy project in West Africa by a Japanese entity.

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Illoulofin Solar Power Station, is a 50 megawatts (67,000 hp) solar power plant in Benin, whose first 25 MW was commissioned on 19 July 2022, and the next 25 MW is under construction and is expected to come online in 2025.

Construction launched on 12 November at the 25MWp Forsun Solar PV plant in Pobè, Benin. The project is the result of cooperation between the French Development Agency (AFD), the European Union and the Beninese government to invest almost 16 billion West African Francs (\$25.58 million) into building the solar plant.

The solar power plant of Illoulofin is the first solar plant integrated into the grid with a generation capacity of 25 MW. It includes 47 212 solar PV modules with 530 W each, 113 inverters and 6 transformer stations of 3515 kVA.

Benin is planning to generate 300 Megawatt in terms of solar energy by 2030, as the western African country strives to mitigate the energy deficit. Samou Séidou Adambi, the country's minister of Energy made the announcement Saturday October 7 on the sidelines of the 15th Summit of ministers of Energy of the regional organization, ECOWAS.



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The European Investment Bank has agreed to provide a EUR 10 million loan to support the deployment of 107,000 high-quality solar home systems to Benin. This will open up access to clean energy for 643,000 people. The solar home systems include solar panels and battery storage to be sold on Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) contracts.

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